

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- Sub A2 14
1. A method for a manufacturer to automate a catalog process, the method comprising:  
creating a catalog of configurable products including at least one of non-commodity products and services; and  
presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog, the presenting via a communication medium to a purchaser.
  2. The method of claim 1 wherein the purchaser includes at least one of a customer, a third party acting on behalf of the customer and a supplier.
  3. The method of claim 1 wherein the manufacturer includes a third party acting on behalf of the manufacturer.
  4. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file allows the purchaser to configure the products independent of a third party provided configuration tool.
  5. The method of claim 1 wherein the presenting includes transmitting the data file to the customer.
  6. The method of claim 1 wherein the presenting includes hosting the data file on a world wide web interface.
  7. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes manipulable parameters that enable configuration of non-commodity product or service.
  8. The method of claim 7 wherein the manipulable parameters include upgrades, downgrades and swapping of components.
  9. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes non-manipulable parameters that contribute to the configuration of a non-commodity product or service

3 including parent components, orphan components, child components, configuration  
4 components and optional components.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file is configured to be  
2 incorporated into a procurement system, the data file providing a catalog of  
3 configurable components.

1 11. The method of claim 10 wherein the data file includes business rules in  
2 a structured data format.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the business rules include rules for  
2 manipulating data including functional rules and configuration rules for integrating  
3 the data file into the procurement system.

1 13. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes data shared by  
2 the manufacturer and a host of the data file.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes a configuration  
2 identifier, a price of the configuration, type of components, custom or bundled,  
3 upgrades, downgrades and additions permitted with pricing, work flow data  
4 identifying add configurations, discontinue configuration, replace configuration,  
5 effective data, and a discontinue date.

1 15. The method of claim 13 wherein the data file includes pricing  
2 according to predetermined agreements with the manufacturer and the host.

1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes at least one of  
2 factory-installed components, non-factory-installed components, and subsystem  
3 configurations.

1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file includes a core  
2 configuration including:  
3 commodity and non-commodity default services; and

4 customer-specific integration components.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the customer-specific integration  
2 components include customer specific software and menus, images, customer asset  
3 tag labels, and security cables.

1 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the customer-specific integration  
2 components include at least one of transportation industry options and transportation  
3 services.

1 20. The method of claim 16 wherein the factory installed, non-factory  
2 installed, customer kit and solution data includes the associated Stock Keeping Units  
3 (SKUs), including a third parties or a manufacturer generated SKUs and pricing.

1 21. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 receiving an acknowledgment file approving configurations within the data  
3 file.

1 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the acknowledgment file includes  
2 acknowledging each parameter of configurable products, including components,  
3 pricing, services as acceptable and not acceptable.

1 23. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 transmitting an action code within the data file denoting product  
3 configurations requiring replacement in a procurement system, the  
4 action code permitting a purchaser receiving the data file to update  
5 open orders in the procurement system prior to delivery of an order  
6 without manual interaction.

1 24. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file provides data shared by a  
2 purchaser's procurement system and a seller's invoicing system.

1           25.    The method of claim 1 wherein the data file is an (Electronic Data  
2 Interchange) EDI format.

1           26.    The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic data file is transmitted to  
2 the purchaser using an SGML format

1           27.    The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic data file is in a  
2 proprietary file format.

1           28.    The method of claim 1 wherein the data file is periodically updated by  
2 the manufacturer to indicate pricing changes and production transactions

1           29.    A computer system comprising:  
2           a processor;  
3           a memory coupled to the processor; and  
4           a communications port configured to transmit a data file, the data file  
5                 including a catalog of configurable products including at least one of  
6                 non-commodity products and services to be received by a purchaser,  
7                 the data file enabling the purchaser to incorporate the data file into a  
8                 procurement system.

1           30.    A system for automating a catalog process, the system comprising:  
2           means for creating a catalog of configurable products including at least one of  
3                 non-commodity products and services; and  
4           means for presenting a data file, the data file including the catalog, the  
5                 presenting via a communication medium to a purchaser.